



Australian
National
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PUBLIC LECTURE

Books that Changed Humanity: A Vindication of the Rights of Woman

Friday 6 October, 5.30 – 7.00pm

Speaker

Assoc Prof Karen Green
University of Melbourne

Location

SRWB Theatrette
Sir Roland Wilson Building,
Building #120, McCoy Cct, ANU

Lecture followed by light
refreshments

Registration:

bch6.eventbrite.com.au
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This lecture is free and open to the
public

Books that Changed Humanity
information: hrc.anu.edu.au/books



It has been claimed that 'the first major feminist voice belongs to Mary Wollstonecraft' (1759-1797), and her *Vindication of the Rights of Woman* is often described as the origin of the 'first wave of feminism'. It was written in the early years of the French Revolution and argued against male authors, most centrally Jean-Jacques Rousseau, who had helped develop the 'prevailing opinion of a sexual character' which Wollstonecraft claimed had reduced women to 'a state of degradation'. This talk will provide an introduction to Wollstonecraft's most famous work, and situate it in relation to Wollstonecraft's other writings. It will also discuss the influence on Wollstonecraft of some of her less famous female contemporaries, and in particular, the republican historian, Catharine Macaulay.

Presented by

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Associate Professor Karen Green has taught philosophy at many Australian universities, on a wide variety of subjects, including existentialism, feminism, political philosophy, and philosophy of language. She currently holds a research fellowship at the University of Melbourne. For some years she has been engaged in research that aims to foster philosophical discussion of the works of women in the history of philosophy, and she is currently completing a book on the eighteenth-century historian and republican, political theorist, Catharine Macaulay.